



Graduate Women International (GWI)

2021 Advocate Handbook

65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65)

15-26 March 2021, Virtual

The CSW65 priority theme: “Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls” and the review theme “women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development”.



Hashtags for social media: #GWlatCSW65 #Beijing+25 #GirlsEducation #WomensLeadership #GenerationEqualityForum

CSW65 Organisation of Work: [link](#)

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), established by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 1946, is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, therefore, one of the key focal points of the GWI international strategy. Alongside the CSW is the CSW Forum that offers civil society a forum to gather for review of the priority theme, to network, foster global friendships, and to mobilise women’s movements.

The 2-week CSW and Forum, held annually in March, is a time for like-minded women to gather, discuss, learn from each other, advocate and coalesce around the rights of women and girls. CSW65 is an opportunity for policy makers, advocates, researchers, and activists to network and strategize, mobilize and plan new initiatives and actions to further the cause of gender equality and women’s empowerment.

This year is no different, despite the exceptional circumstances that have required the CSW session to be held 100% online.



Each year, GWI has the honour of being represented by a delegation of dynamic and dedicated GWI members. Alongside the GWI Board, National Federation and Association Presidents, Committees, UN Representatives, Young Member Network, and Staff, GWI delegates participate actively in official CSW sessions, side events (governments) and parallel events (civil society), which provide a unique avenue to promote and advance our collective vision for a just and equal society.

This Advocates' Handbook contains summaries of preparatory documents that will enhance the "Advocates" experience. Items include summaries of the Expert Group Meeting discussing this year's Priority Theme, the [UN Secretary General's report for CSW65](#), [report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women](#), and so much more valuable information.

GWl's participation includes two parallel events: 1) on women and corruption and 2) a mock trial on "women and girls' empowerment through responsive quality education". GWI is also sponsor of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Geneva Global Consultation Day, "Heart of Human Rights and Service to Humanity."

The principal outcomes will be the Agreed Conclusions are agreed recommendations for governments, intergovernmental bodies, civil society actors and other relevant stakeholders to be implemented at the international, national, regional and local level. The Commission also adopts a number of resolutions on a range of issues.

GWI Delegation to CSW65

Board of Officers

Terry Oudraad, President (Netherlands)
Veena Bathe, VP Governance (India)
Eileen Focke-Bakker, VP Membership (Netherlands)
Glenda Hecksher, VP Marketing (Mexico)
Louise McLeod, VP Advocacy and Education (USA)
Dr. Basak Ovacik, VP Fundraising (Turkey)
Katharina Strub, Treasurer (Switzerland)

GWI NFA Presidents

Jasmit Phull, British Federation of Women Graduates
Judith Saror, Nigerian Association of University Women
Saski Voortman, Graduate Women International Netherlands
Linda Rebecca Williams, Sierra Leone Association of University Women

GWI Committee Members

Catriona Sutherland, Convenor Resolution Committee
Dr. Meera Bondre, Convenor Membership Committee



Dr. Cynthia Burek, Convenor Fellowships Committee
Dr. Shirley Gillett, Convenor Education Committee
Nneka Chiedozi-Udeh, Membership Committee
Lucía Guzmán DE Malo, Resolution Committee

GWI UN Representatives

Dr, Maureen Byrne, New York
Maryella Hannum, New York
Dr. Sophie Turner, New York
Elisabeth Francis, Vienna
Dominique Ciavatti, Paris
Elaine Didier, Paris

GWI Young Member Network

Sudha Srivastava
Perine Wagdy
Shruti Sharad Sonthalia
Emine Tüba Şahin

GWI Delegates

Abigail Okyere	Irene Kafui Vorsah Am- ponsah	Nandini Sonthalia
Angela Ibeh	Irina Trofimova	Ogechi Adiuku
Anne Offermans	Isabelle Trimaille	Phyllis Scott
Aramide Shitta-Bey	Janis Wong	Rachel Malek
Augusta Mmuoegbulam	Jenny Morley	Radwa Mohamed Abdel Fatah
Barbara Maclellan	Kamelia Assenova	Regina Smit
Cecilia Zhang	Karen Richardson	Rokhaya Daba Fall
Comfort Otegbeye	Kathleen Cha	Sahar Gamal
Confidence Dikgole	Kathryn Rose Fitzjohn	Shaila Rao Mistry
Damaris Akhigbe	Eleady-Cole	Sheila Forbes
Denise Amyot	Jyotika Kalra	Shirley Randell
Dorothy Onoja	Louise Croot	Swati Bedekar
Dorothy Phillips	Lubasi Ilubala	Thais Cordoba
Feyisayo Oyolola	Malvina Segovia	Yvonne Makwali
Fran Harding	Margaret Middlemass	Zoya Apevalova
Gabriella Marceau	Mona Delavan	
Hally Ruth Siddons		

GWI Staff

Stacy Dry Lara, GWI Executive Director
Clémence Mathiaud, GWI Programme Officer

GWI Delegate Report Template CSW65

Reporting is critical to the legacy of CSW65 and future advocacy work! All GWI advocates to CSW65 are required to submit reports of sessions attended. At the conclusion of CSW65 a thematic summary of reports will be created. This comprehensive summary will be submitted



and available worldwide with Calls to Action for governments, public and private sectors, educational institutions, and other NGOs stemming from CSW65.

Your reports are important! This year we are offering an easy-to-complete report template on the GWI website. Click [HERE](#) to access the report template! Login to the GWI Member Corner is required.

GWI core advocacy purposes

1. Promote lifelong education for women and girls;
2. Foster international cooperation, friendship, peace & respect for human rights for all;
3. Advocate for the advancement of the status of women and girls;
4. Encourage and enable women and girls to apply their knowledge and skills in all forms of public and private life.

GWI Statements for CSW65

GWI submitted for CSW65 a [Written Statement](#), “Decades of progress towards women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life are undergoing appalling reversals.” This statement is co-sponsored by the following non-governmental organisations (NGO) in General Consultative Status with ECOSOC: Soroptimists International and Zonta International; and those in Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC: Canadian Federation of University Women, Federación Mexicana de Universitarias, Women Graduates-USA, Inc., Federation of American Women’s Clubs Overseas (FAWCO), International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Women’s Federation for World Peace International.

GWI National Federations and Associations in Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC also submitted written statements:

- [WG-USA Written Statement](#) co-signed by GWI.
- [CFUW Written Statement](#) co-signed by GWI.
- GWI co-sponsored CSW65 written statements from Soroptimists International, Zonta International, NGO CSW Vienna and the Women’s Federation for World Peace International.

To read the GWI written statement, please click on the logo graphic:





Registration NGO CSW65 Forum



The CSW Forum is the civil society side of CSW65 and provides civil society the opportunity to engage in the processes and CSW sessions without ECOSOC-ac-

creditation. This year, the NGO CSW65 Forum will be entirely virtual due to the COVID-19. To engage in the NGO CSW65 Forum, you must [register for free here](#). This includes registering for and attending events, creating posts in the Public Forum, and event and organization pages, and visiting the virtual Artisan Fair. Anyone without a profile on the virtual platform CANNOT attend any Parallel Events. Your profile is created when you register for the Forum. Anyone without a profile can see all Parallel Events on the platform, so Parallel Event organizers can share the link to their event to their networks. People without a profile will be able to see all of your event details but are not able to register or attend without making a profile on the platform.

Click [HERE](#) for a step-by-step video tutorial on how to register and make the most of your advocate experience at the NGO CSW65 Forum

NGO CSW65 Forum Features

Attend Parallel Events Attend over 700 Parallel Events hosted by global women's rights and gender equality organisations, including GWI. You can search the schedule of events by topics of interest and region. Please note that to register and attend any Parallel Events, you must have a profile on the NGO CSW65 Virtual Forum Platform. **Parallel Event Schedule: [link](#) (you will have to register for free for the NGO CSW65 Forum to access the event and the parallel event schedule)**



Network with Attendees. Connect with other NGO CSW65 Forum attendees. You can see a list of all attendees, search people by topics of focus and region and contact them directly! You can also post in the public forum to start a public discussion with everyone on the platform.



Virtual Artisan Fair. Shop authentic handmade fashion, home and jewelry accessories during the NGO CSW65 Forum! All proceeds go to the artisans or their organisations. Click on the graphic to access the Artisan Fair.



Virtual Exhibit Hall. Visit different exhibit booths to learn about the organisation and connect with them. During the NGO CSW65 Virtual Forum, there will be live representatives to talk to within each booth. **The Exhibit Hall can be accessed [HERE](#).**

Parallel events hosted by GWI and NFAs

GW Parallel Events

Mock Trial – Women and Girl’s Empowerment through Responsive Quality Education. This parallel event highlighting the need for Quality Responsive Education will be held in the form of a mock trial similar to a judicial system complete, with jury and participants. **The parallel event will be held 16 March 2021, 3:30-5:00pm Central European Time (CET).** Register as an NGO CSW65 Virtual Forum Advocate for free to register for this event [HERE](#).

Women and Corruption. In today’s complex and volatile world, corruption is everywhere. Existing social, economic, political, legal, and gender inequalities make women especially vulnerable to the consequences of corruption. Women best be aware of ways to prevent victimization by corruption and understand corruption interventions. This Panel will consider tools and good practices for women to be alert to corruption and deal with corruption, individually and collectively, on personal, family, and community levels. **The parallel event will be held 19 March 2021, 4:30pm-6:00pm CET and is co-sponsored by the [Women’s UN Report Network \(WUNRN\)](#) and [Transparency International](#).** Register as an NGO CSW65 Virtual Forum Advocate for free to register for this event [HERE](#).

GW NFA CSW65 Parallel Events

Canadian Federation of University Women

Mobilising for Impact: This panel will feature four trailblazing women for a discussion on developing strategies to mobilise communities and governments toward positive change. **The event will be held on Wednesday, March 24, 2021, 12:00PM EST. Registration for the CSW Forum is required to attend. Click [HERE](#).**

Federation of University Women Mexico

The Pandemic’s Effects on Women’s lives. The COVID 19 pandemic shadow pandemic of domestic violence will be examined by expert panelists. This event will be held on **Monday, 15 March 2021, 11:30 am – 1:30pm Central Standard Time. Registration for the CSW Forum is required to attend. Click [HERE](#).**

WG-USA is organizing three parallel events:

Empowering Women of the Congo DRC through Education and Training for Equality After decades of instability, a new movement to provide education and training for women and girls



of the Congo DRC shows great promise. The event will be held **Thursday, 18 March 2021, 4:30-6:00pm Eastern Standard Time. Registration for the CSW Forum is required to attend. Click [HERE](#).**

A Seat at The Table: Addressing Violence in Sex Trafficking and Prostitution Survivor leaders and allies will discuss the 2020 Trafficking In Persons Report (TIP) and its recommendations to countries with an emphasis on justice, equality and inclusiveness. This event will be held **Friday, 19 March 2021, 4:00-5:30pm Eastern Standard Time. Registration for the CSW Forum is required to attend. Click [HERE](#).**

Reclaiming Our Humanity: Urgent Need for Women's Leadership in Migration Issues The three North American NFAs - Mexico, USA, Canada (CAMEUS) - are working together by addressing the movement of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants seeking to escape poverty, violence and conflict in their countries. Experts will discuss a framework of women's leadership to replace the current devastating policies of the political economy, racism and isolation. This event will be held **Tuesday, 23 March 2021, 3:00-5:30pm Eastern Standard Time. Registration for the CSW Forum is required to attend. Click [HERE](#).**

GWI Sponsorship of NGO Committee on the Status of Women Events

Global Consultation Day, New York

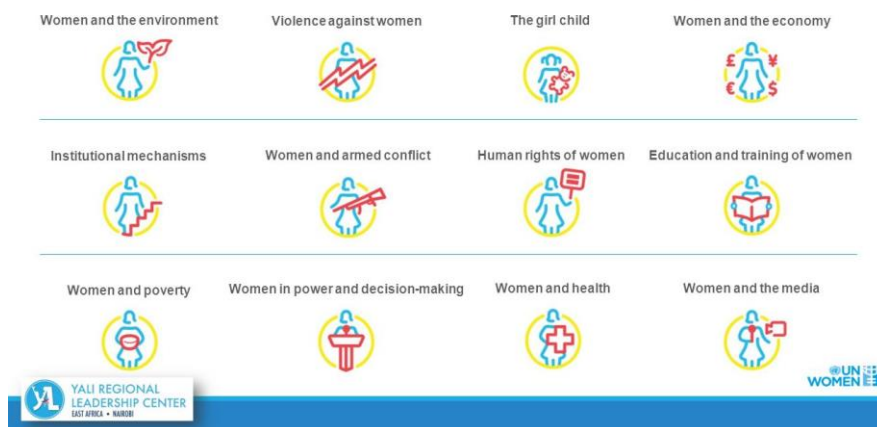
Global Consultation Day, Geneva

Gender Terminology organized by the NGO CSW, Geneva

GWI + 12 Critical Areas of Concern + SDGs

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) flagged 12 key areas where urgent action was needed to ensure greater equality and opportunities for women and girls. It also laid out concrete ways for countries to bring about change.

12 Critical Areas to Ensure Gender Equality





These 12 Critical Areas of Concern are strongly linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs), as they contribute to their achievement. Without women's empowerment sustainable development is impossible:



In the past 26 years, GWI has been active in improving the situation for women within these 12 critical areas and has adopted a total of 110 resolutions therein. These are also going to be handed out at the Breakfast Briefing.

Women & Health: 8 resolutions

Women & Media: 0 resolutions

Violence against Women: 12 resolutions

Women & Armed Conflict: 11 resolutions

Women in Power & Decision Making: 5 resolutions

Education & Training: 16 resolutions

Girl Child: 12 resolutions

Women & Economy: 6 resolutions

Women & Poverty: 3 resolutions

Institutional Mechanisms: 9 resolutions

Human Rights of Women: 17 resolutions

Women & Environment: 12 resolutions



Graduate Women International

Empowering women & girls through lifelong education

Women & Health



- 1995/08 Health Education
- 1995/10 Foetal Alcohol Syndrome
- 1998/10 Human Cloning
- 1998/11 Research in Human Genetics
- 1998/12 Tobacco & Health
- 2007/03 Religious Beliefs & Women's Health
- 2007/05 Women & Disease Prevention
- 2019/03 SRH Education

- 1995/14 Refugee Women & Girls
- 1998/04 Violence-Free Family Life
- 1998/06 Trafficking & Sexual Exploitation of Women & Children
- 1998/07 Violence against Women
- 2004/12 Increased Collective Violence against Women
- 2010/04 Abuse of Female Migrants
- 2013/3/4 Reaffirm Resolutions 4 & 7, 1998 with Update
- 2013/05 Trafficking
- 2013/08 Non-State Actor Torture
- 2013/10 Prostitution of Women & Girls
- 2013/11 Protecting Women & Children in War Zones
- 2016/07 Trafficking

Violence against Women

- 1995/14 Refugee Women & Girls
- 1998/04 Violence-Free Family Life
- 1998/06 Trafficking & Sexual Exploitation of Women & Children
- 1998/07 Violence against Women
- 2004/12 Increased Collective Violence against Women
- 2010/04 Abuse of Female Migrants
- 2013/3/4 Reaffirm Resolutions 4 & 7, 1998 with Update
- 2013/05 Trafficking
- 2013/08 Non-State Actor Torture
- 2013/10 Prostitution of Women & Girls
- 2013/11 Protecting Women & Children in War Zones
- 2016/07 Trafficking

Women in Power & Decision Making

- 1995/02 Fair Co-Management
- 1995/18 Women's Participation in Peacemaking Process
- 2001/05 Women's Leadership
- 2004/01 Women in Decision-Making in World Financial Institutions
- 2007/01 Women in Leadership & Decision-Making Positions

- 1995/01 Adolescents
- 1995/12 Child Rights
- 1995/13 Ritual Abuse
- 1998/08 Violence at School
- 2001/13 Conflict Resolution for Children
- 2001/09 Children Advocacy
- 2004/06 Commercial Exploitation of Children
- 2013/01 Child Marriage
- 2013/02 Child Protection from Incest
- 2016/01 Bullying
- 2016/06 FGM
- 2016/08 Child Marriage

The Girl Child



- 1995/03 Unpaid Work
- 1995/05 Global Mobility & Partners
- 1998/05 Valuing Parenting
- 2001/02 Future of Women's Employment
- 2010/01 Work-Life Balance for Women
- 2013/12 Effects of Globalisation on Women & Girls in Developing Countries

Education & Training



- 1995/04 Career Development
- 1995/06 Continual Training for Women Graduates
- 1995/07 Gender Balance
- 1998/01 Right to Education
- 1998/02 Higher Education
- 1998/03 Continuing Education
- 2001/01 Education & Training for Women in Prison
- 2001/04 Women's & Gender Studies
- 2004/04 Cultural Diversity & Education
- 2004/05 Age Discrimination in Educational Funding
- 2010/03 Financial Literacy
- 2013/09 Education for Indigenous Peoples
- 2013/07 Right to Safe Access to Education
- 2016/10 Young Members
- 2019/01 Diversity in Teacher Education
- 2019/04 Women in STEM

Human Rights of Women



- 1995/09 Mutual Respect & Understanding
- 1995/11 NFA Follow-Up to UN World Conferences
- 1998/01 Right to Education
- 1998/09 Abuse of Women's Human Rights
- 2001/03 Education for Gender Equality Society
- 2001/07 Ethics & Education
- 2001/08 Human Rights of Refugee Women
- 2004/07 Religion, Culture, Gender Equality & Women's Rights
- 2010/05 Human Trafficking
- 2010/06 Bioethics & Women
- 2016/07 Disability
- 2016/03 Polygamy
- 2016/04 Harassment
- 2016/05 Tolerance
- 2019/05 Human Rights for Refugees & Migrant Women & Children
- 2019/06 Fair Management of Refugees & Asylum Seekers
- 2019/07 Workplace Sexual Harassment

Women & Poverty

- 1995/15 Family Planning
- 2001/06 Education for Adolescent Mothers
- 2010/02 Numeracy & Women

Graduate Women International (GWI)

Resolutions 1995-2020

Linked to the Beijing Platform for Action

12 Critical Areas of Concern &

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



- 1995/16 Environment Protection
- 1995/17 Ozone Layer
- 1995/20 Nuclear Testing
- 1998:13 Health & Environment
- 1998/14 Desertification & Environment
- 1998/15 Sustainable Forestry
- 2004/10 Water Protection
- 2007/06 Armament with Depleted Uranium
- 2007/09 Environmental Damage of Military Activities
- 2007/10 Global Warming
- 2010/07 Climate Change - Greenhouse Gas
- 2016/09 Carbon Taxes

Women & Environment



Institutional Mechanisms

- 2004/02 Women & Ageing
- 2004/03 New Choices During Life Cycle
- 2004/09 Women - Essential to Peace
- 2007/02 UN Women's Agency
- 2007/04 UN MDGs
- 2010/08 Cluster Munitions
- 2010/09 Peacekeeping
- 2013/06 Country UNWNR to UNGA
- 2019/08 UN SDGs



Women & Economy



Women & Armed Conflict

- 1995/18 Women & Peacemaking
- 1995/19 Landmines
- 2001/10 Children in Armed Conflict
- 2001/11 Child Soldiers
- 2001/12 Education for Peace
- 2001/14 Code of Conduct on Arms Transfers
- 2004/08 Small Arms & Light Weapons Control
- 2004/11 Responsibility to Protect
- 2007/07 Nuclear Weapons Non-Proliferation & Weaponisation of Space
- 2007/08 UN Peacekeeping
- 2019/02 Peace through Women's Education

Women & the Media

Interestingly, since 1995 GWI has not adopted any resolution concerning the role of women in the media.

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Chronology of CSW Work

CSW64 (2020) In the light of concerns regarding coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the Commission on the Status of Women convened, on 9 March, for a meeting that included opening statements followed by the adoption of the draft Political Declaration. The session was then



suspended until further notification. The main focus of the session was on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly. The review included an assessment of current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

CSW63 (2019): Priority theme: Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Review theme: Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development (agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session).

CSW62 (2018): Priority theme: Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls. Review theme: Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women (agreed conclusions of the forty-seventh session).

CSW61 (2017): Priority theme: Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work. Review theme: Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls (agreed conclusions of the fifty-eighth session).

CSW60 (2016): Priority theme: Women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development. Review theme: The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls (agreed conclusions of the fifty-seventh session).

CSW59 (2015): Review of progress made in the implementation of the BPfA, 20 years after its adoption at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 and of the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly, the first five-year assessment conducted after the adoption of the BPfA, which highlighted further actions and initiatives. The session also addressed opportunities for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda.

CSW58 (2014): Priority theme: Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls. Review theme: Access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work (agreed conclusions from the fifty-fifth session).

CSW57 (2013): Priority theme: Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls. Review theme: The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS (agreed conclusions from the fifty-third session).



CSW56 (2012): Priority theme: The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges. Review theme: Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women.

CSW55 (2011): Priority theme: Access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work. Review theme: The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child.

CSW54 (2010): Review and appraisal of progress made in the implementation of the BPfA 15 years after its adoption and of the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the UN General Assembly. Other topics addressed were violence against women and the many ways that participation can be achieved by women in various scales of life around the world.

Ministerial Roundtables

Ministerial round tables will provide ministers attending CSW65 with the opportunity to engage in dialogue and discussion. They will be open to all UN Member States and observers. The outcomes of the ministerial round tables will be in form of Chair's summaries, prepared in consultation with the regional groups through the members of the Bureau. This year's topics and schedule are:

Round table No.	Topic	Date & Time
1	Getting to parity: good practices towards achieving women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life	Monday 15 March 4-5pm and Tuesday 16 March 9-10am EST
2	Creating an enabling environment for women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life	Monday 15 March 5-6pm and Tuesday 16 March 10-11am EST
3	Participation, institutional mechanisms and accountability	Wednesday, 11 March 3:00 – 4:30 PM EST
4	Environmental protection and climate action	Wednesday, 11 March 4:30 – 6:00 PM

Interactive Dialogues (ID)

ID No.	Topic	Date & Time
1	Eliminating violence against women in public life Concept Note : HERE	Wednesday, 17 March 2021, 9.00 -11.00 a.m.
2	Building alliances for women's full and effective participation in public life	Wednesday, 17 March 2021, 4.00 – 6.00 p.m



	Concept Note: HERE	
3	Building back better - women's participation and leadership in COVID-19 response and recovery Concept Note: HERE	Thursday, 18 March 2021, 9.00 – 11.00 a.m.
4	Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development Concept Note: HERE	Tuesday 23 March and Wednesday, 24 March, 9.00 – 11.00 a.m.

We hope for all GWI delegates a successful, inspirational and mobilising session!